Adriana Ramirez | Daily 49er

Thick clouds of orange smoke slowly covered the sky above campus as fires burned in the Anaheim Hills area nearby on Monday.

WILDFIRES

Fires ignite across California

Campus-wide smoke advisory released as uncontained brush fire in Anaheim Hills rages.

By Kat Schuster
News Editor

Clusters of ash rained down from a burnt-auburn sky and gathered into scattered piles around Cal State Long Beach Monday afternoon. As students walked hastily along the halls, some brushed the debris off of their shoulders while others attempted to shield their lungs from the thickening air.

A brush fire broke out Monday morning in the Anaheim Hills area and along the 91 Freeway in the Coal Canyon area.

The fire jumped over onto the California 241 toll road, warranting evacuations for areas south of the 91 Freeway and west of California 241 toll road, north of Nohl Ranch Road and east of Serrano Avenue and was dubbed Canyon Fire 2.

According to KTLA 5, by Tuesday, the fire had advanced to 7,500 acres taking numerous homes and buildings in its path. The fire resulted in the evacuation of over 5,000 homes.

With the fire at 25 percent containment by Tuesday evening and evacuation orders in Anaheim are slated to be lifted by 7 p.m. following evacuation lifts for Tustin and Orange at 5 p.m.

"There has been a campus-wide advisory to limit vigorous outdoor activity and to stay inside as much as possible," said Pierre Gerber from the environmental health and safety department at CSULB.

Monday, smoke loomed heavily over the campus, causing all outdoor athletic practices to be

see **FIRE**, page 3

POLICY

Let it flow

New alcohol policy is more lenient with the selling of libations on campus.

By Holly Bartlow
Staff Writer

When women's volleyball hosts UC Davis Oct. 27, students will be able to enjoy a beer or glass of wine while watching the game.

It's been 12 years since Cal State University Long Beach has sold beer and wine inside the Walter Pyramid during athletic events.

Executive Order 1109 allows the sale and service of alcoholic beverages and advertising of alcoholic beverages on campus and at athletic facilities. This order supersedes order 996, which prevented the sale of alcoholic beverages at the pyramid for sporting events.

Regulation X of the new policy is an updated alcohol guideline on campus that allows the distribution of beer and wine at athletic events. The price and brand of alcoholic beverages has not yet been determined.

CSULB President Jane Close Conoley told the Daily 49er last week that before this policy update, alcohol at university sponsored events was prohibited.

The policy also allows students in on-campus housing who are of age to drink inside their dorm rooms.

"If you can drink in the Outpost and the Nugget, you should be able to drink in your living space," Klaus said.

Students can drink inside their dorms rooms only if everyone living in the dorm is of age to drink, according to Jeff Klaus, vice president for student life and development.

A student who is caught drinking underage, the consequence will remain the same as the old policy. It's a three-step process that focuses on education first.

"If an underage person is caught drinking, they will be sent to a class focused on behavior, facts and information about drugs and alcohol," Klaus said.

A student that receives a second or third offense, a drug and alcohol counselor becomes involved, which could consequently result in the student being removed from housing.

According to Klaus, the university put together a committee ranging from students, alumni and staff to look at the pros and cons of the policy.

"There was a 16-member task force that looked at the alcohol policy and this is how we arrived at some of these changes," Klaus said. "We met for many months and feel that we came up with something that is responsible."

The selling of beer and wine was allowed in the pyramid at CSULB once before, until executive order 966 prohibited the sell of alcohol at athletic events in 2005.

President Conoley asked the board on behalf of the Athletics Department to serve alcohol in the pyramid.

"We want to provide the same kind of

see **ALCOHOL**, page 2

EVENTS

Indigenous People's Day celebration at the UAM

Activists celebrated with traditional music and special guests.

By Samantha Diaz
Arts and Life Editor

Students and faculty crowded the University Art Museum plaza Monday for Cal State Long Beach's first Indigenous People's Day celebration.

The event took place following Long Beach's city council meeting in which the city voted to honor the existence of American Indians in society.

The celebration included music performances, presentations of traditional flags and scarves and speaker Patricia Lopez, who was one of the frontwomen who fought for the holiday change in Long Beach.

The event was kicked off by a group of men and women playing drums and singing a traditional American Indian song for the audience. The song was said to be the "flag song," about the sacrifices American Indians have made in the multiple wars the U.S. have fought.

Gilbert Lopez, an American Indian Supreme Court judge, was playing a drum he made for the students of Cal State Long Beach and said the song played was what they considered the Native national anthem.

> "This process was not overnight... It took two and a half years of working, lobbying, crying, presenting and coalescing with other groups to make it happen."
>
> *-Patricia Lopez, Activist*

Lopez also spoke about the eagle flag waving in the wind at the entrance of the event. He said the 24 leaves on the flag represent the first 24 American Indians to graduate from CSULB, mentioning that the school is one of few in the state that hold traditional celebrations for Native students.

Patricia Lopez spoke to the audience about the struggles and process of putting Indigenous People's Day on the calendar, both for Long Beach and Los Angeles county.

"This process was not overnight," Lopez said. "It took two and a half years of working, lobbying, crying, presenting and coalescing with other groups to make it happen."

Lopez described the night the L.A. city council voted on the measure, saying that there were people in the lobby yelling racial slurs at her, and a Native woman who went to speak out against her own father. She said the process of getting the holiday passed in Long Beach was much easier.

"I think of everything my ancestors went through and I can't be happy, but I am very relieved and grateful," Lopez said.

To read the full story, go to daily49er.com

ALCOHOL

continued from page 1

amenities that fans expect now at sporting events such as Dodgers or Lakers games," Athletics Director Andy Fee said in a press release. "One of my focuses when I took the job was to really engage with our fans in a different way than before in hopes to improve the fan experience and the gameday experience."

It took awhile for the CSU board to pull back, according to Conoley, but then they re-wrote their executive order allowing the decision to sell alcohol a campus-wide decision.

Sales will begin at the Walter Pyramid for LBSU sports events and will continue throughout the season.

"We did a lot of research and we know that there is a drinking problem at games," Conoley said in an interview with the Daily 49er. "But most of the drinking problem at games is because people drink before they get there, so they arrive drunk."

CSULB has always promoted responsible drinking, according to Klaus.

"We never had an issue when we use to sell beer or wine at events, and I don't anticipate we will moving forward," Klaus said.

The University Police Department has also commented that they will not be increasing the number of officers for the games.

Hunter Lee | Daily 49er

The Nugget Bar and Grill and Outpost Grill were the only two locations where the sale and consumption of alcohol was allowed on campus.

Tailgating at CSULB sporting events has been discussed but is currently not a part of this alcohol policy.

Tailgating typically includes an area fenced off for parked cars, where people can barbeque or gather together by the tailgate of a car, typically during sporting events.

"We're going slow on the tailgating because what we want is to invite people into the pyramid early before a game where they can get a glass of wine or a beer," Conoley said.

As the campus prepares for newly liberated alcoholic beverage regulations, students respond.

"I think they should do it, most large universities offer beer and wine at their sporting events," Bryce Marshall said, business administration major at CSULB. "It's a good source of revenue, and will attract a larger student body to the events."

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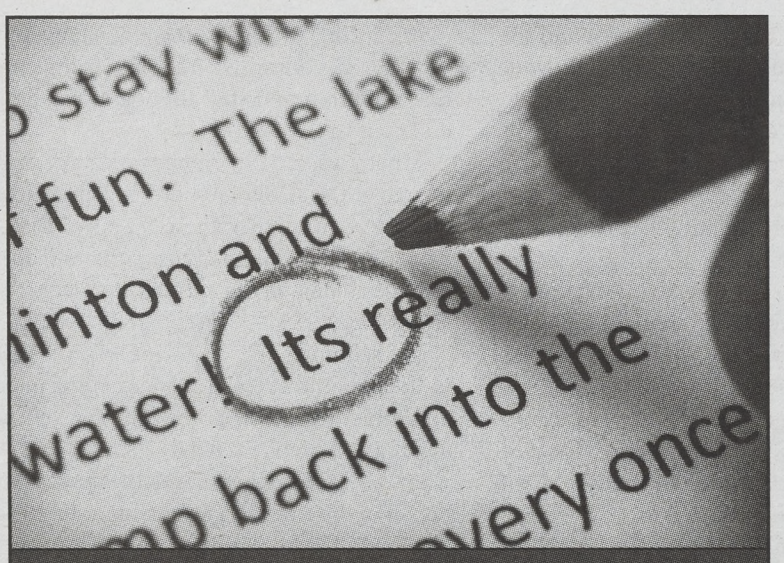

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What Your Teachers Never Taught You
The Gratitude Party
Dr. George A. Kuck (galbertk@aol.com)

Which party do you belong to? I belong to the Gratitude Party. Which party do you think it is?

The first thing for which I am grateful is that I was born in the United States. Economically we are in the upper class worldwide. The poverty level in the contiguous US is over $24,000 for a family of 4. Middle class worldwide has a 2011 income from $14,000 to $29,200 for a family of 4. Thus because I worked hard and saved my money, I am rich in the eyes of the remainder of the world.

Second, I am grateful that I am still alive. My father died at 65 and I am 76. Thank you Big Pharma. The overall average lifespan worldwide is about 66 years. Average lifespan in the US is 78.8 years in 2009. Yes, the statistics are controversial and vary according to the source of the data. However, it appears that I have lived more than 10 years over the worldwide average life span.

I am grateful because my family is safe. We have many people who are willing to give up their lives that I may live. This includes the people in the military, our local police, etc. Our worst city for homicides in the US was Chicago with 478 homicides last year. I am grateful that, unlike citizens in Democratic controlled Chicago, I can own a personal weapon to protect my family if I wish. In 2012, the estimated US homicide rate was 4.8 per year per 100,000 people. Venezuela had a rate a factor of 10 higher. Japan had the lowest rate that was a factor of 10 lower. Yes, we can do better but that will take a large effort to lower gang activity that may reduce our freedoms.

I am thankful for our education system. Our education system is set up to provide the average person with a college degree. This is not the case overseas where only the smartest or best connected can go to college. If you want to compare different test scores, you need to compare Cal Tech and MIT to the graduates in Japan, South Korea, and Europe. It is not fair to compare CSULB students with those graduating from elite foreign schools.

I am grateful for our free elections. If you are a citizen, you can vote. Up to this date, I have not seen any major political party contest the election such as been happening today. In the Nixon vs JFK election, voter fraud was rampant in Texas and Illinois. If true, Mr. Nixon was actually elected president. Mr. Nixon conceded the election to keep from having a constitutional crisis.

These are just some of the reasons I am grateful. Can you guess with which political party I am associated? E-mail me for more civil discussion.

Stuart Palley | Los Angeles Times

A firefighter signals for engine operators to pressurize his hose while trying to keep embers on a burning home on Canyon Heights Drive from spreading to other houses on the street.

FIRE

continued from page 1

cancelled.

University Police Department dispatcher Binks said that they would be contacting facilities to mitigate fresh air for buildings on campus.

The smoke and ash was a hardship for students getting around a big campus.

"I live across the street and I ride my scooter to school usually. I noticed that my eyes were burning and I thought it was my allergies at first, but then I realized it was from the air," said senior women's studies major Rachel Mastro. "I won't be riding my scooter home in this weather, I'm going to get a ride."

A student walking down the hall hauling boxes on a dolly was wearing an air pollution mask, covering his nose and mouth.

"My work gave it to me," said Henry Tran, a CSULB shipping and handling employee and freshman majoring in mechanical engineering. "It's just to be safe because of the air today."

By Tuesday, the orange colored film that coated the sky on Monday had mostly faded by the afternoon and outdoor athletic activities had resumed.

"I don't have a class right now and it's not really bothering me," said Giovanni Orozco, an engineering major who chooses to stay outside. "I don't mind it so much."

Meanwhile, northern California battled an even bigger fire that has been raging since Sunday night.

According to The Los Angeles Times, the lives of 17 people have been claimed along with 2,000 homes and 115,000 acres of land.

> "I live across the street and I ride my scooter to school usually. I noticed that my eyes were burning and I thought it was my allergies at first, but then I realized it was from the air."
>
> *-Rachel Mastro, CSULB student*

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Day	Date	FE (Civil)		FE (Mechanical)	
		Topic	Hours	Topic	Hours
1	10/29/2017	1. Mathematics 2. Probability and Statistics 3. Computational Tools	6	1. Mathematics 2. Probability and Statistics 13. Computational Tools	6
2	11/5/2017	5. Enginering Economics 4. Ethics and Professional Practice	3	14. Enginering Economics 15. Ethics and Professional Practice	3
	11/5/2017	15. Transportation Engineering	3	9. Electricity and Magnetism	3
3	11/12/2017	14. Geotechnical Engineering	6	10. Dynamics, Kinematics, and Vibrations	6
4	11/19/2017	6. Statics 8. Mechanics of Materials	6	6. Statics 8. Mechanics of Materials	6
5	11/26/2017	16. Enviromental Engineering	3	7. Material Properties and Processing	6
		9. Materials	3		
6	12/3/2017	7. Dynamics	3	4. Thermodynamics	6
		12. Structural Analysis 13. Structural Design	3		
7	12/10/2017	10. Fluid Mechanics	3	3. Fluid Mechanics	3
		11. Hydraulics and Hydrological Systems	3	5. Heat Transfer	3
8	12/17/2017	17. Construction	3	12. Measurements, Instrumentation and Controls	3
		18. Surveying (Transportation)	3	11. Mechanical Design and Analysis	3
			48		48

FEATURE

CSULB alumnae weaving through

Two former CSULB students are featured at the Huntington Beach Art Center.

By Hunter Lee
Assistant Photo Editor

Hunter Lee | Daily 49er

Dawn Ertl's, "One Nation Under God," is initially beautiful to viewers, but closer examination reveals the environmental issues addressed in the piece.

Handwoven cotton and vinyl thread work created by Annette Heully and Dawn Ertl drape across the Huntington Beach Art Center gallery.

Artists and Cal State Long Beach alumnae, Heully and Ertl are currently featured in the "Looming Spaces" exhibition at the art center. Both contemporary fiber artists use the skill of weaving to address cultural and environmental issues.

This exhibit is the third and final of the year featured in the center's series dedicated to celebrating women in the arts.

"I want this community art center to address issues," Executive Director Kate Hoffman said. "Not just present beauty to the viewers."

Responding to the historical struggle for recognition and representation women have faced in the arts, the Huntington Beach Art Center has dedicated all three of this year's exhibits to showcasing female artists.

"Last year was a heavy year for women, politically," Hoffman said. "It was the notion of potentially having our first female president that caused me to reflect on women in the arts."

Heully and Ertl are 2015 graduates of the university's weaving, fibers, and textiles master of fine arts program.

Suggested by Long Beach art professor Karen Kleinfelder, Heully and Ertl approached Hoffman with the idea of utilizing the entire space of the gallery to display ceiling to floor installations.

"Not a lot of galleries can accommodate that kind of height and length," Hoffman said.

One of Ertl's pieces, "The Warmth of Your Embrace," focuses heavily on addressing environmental issues by incorporating the issue of climate change and the science behind it by weaving the fabric to mimic weather patterns.

"Listening to non-believers [of climate change,] saying things like the weather is fine here, or that it's cold here so global warming isn't real, that stance seems very personal," said Ertl. "As if they aren't looking beyond their own backyard to see how clearly the temperature is changing around the world and affecting everyone."

Ertl's largest installation, "One Nation Under God," is a set of 12 pieces woven together to form one cohesive pattern, made up of wool and single-use plastics based off of music notation.

While the art is meant to initially invoke beauty, closer examination reveals the hidden layers of her work through the specific material choice.

Heully's main installation, "Body + Landscape," occupies an entire room with thick black fiber weavings stretched across the room like a spider's web.

"I wanted this piece to expand beyond itself," Heully said. "Viewers could be above, below, inside or outside of it."

Aiming to make full use of the large space, Heully placed lights in the room so shadows cast would not only create an expanding illusions, but cast the viewers' shadows as well, as if they are an essential part of the piece.

Ertl is unsure of where her art will take her next, but is eager to begin working with her loom and skills.

Heully is looking to collaborate with dance and performing arts with her "Body + Landscape" installation. She is also being featured in the CSULB Public Urban Multisensory Presentations exhibit.

While the women are excited to be given the spotlight this year, both artists feel that there is a long road ahead for women to receive the recognition in the arts that they deserve.

"It's Gillian Welch song, 'we're gonna do it anyway even if it doesn't pay," said Heully said. "I love creating and even if it didn't pay I'd still be doing it."

Ertl's and Heully's installations will be available for viewing from noon to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 6 p.m. Fridays and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 21.

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CAMPUS COMPETITION

The ultimate group project

CSULB students participated in a global 24-hour animation contest.

By Carlos Villicana
Assistant Arts & Life Editor

> In a sense this is really the closest parallel to [working in] the industry that we're going to get while at this school... I think that's really the biggest charm and why this contest is so popular.
>
> *-Alex Tasker,*
> *Junior animation student*

Last weekend, over 900 students from seven countries competed in a contest requiring teams of five to craft a thirty-second animated film within 24 hours.

The halls of Cal State Long Beach's Fine Arts 4 building were filled with the drawing materials, yawns and work of nearly 100 animation students who hoped to be among the top five winners of the contest. Prizes for the victors included materials such as pens and tablets, scholarships for the CSU Summer Arts program, gifts from studios and the second edition of the book "Ideas for the Animated Short."

All work on the films had to follow a theme given by CSULB Head of Animation and organizer of the event, Aubry Mintz minutes before the competition began and had to be done on school grounds.The theme for this year was inspired by the Sesame Street song "One of These Things." The 183 participating teams had to create films where at least one thing was clearly different from everything that surrounded it.

"I've heard more than once from studios or employers that they look for [the contest] on résumés. It shows that students can work together in a team in a very limited amount of time with pressure to deliver a finished product," Mintz said. "That's very appealing to them."

Separated by location, all of the competitors communicated through a Facebook groupthat was constantly being updated with photos and videos of students working and sleeping as well as memes and nervous questions about the rules. The 18 teams on campus set shifts for sleeping, organized potlucks and worked to music in rooms that they shared.

Teams sketched their shorts onto tablets.

"In a sense this is really the closest parallel to [working in] the industry that we're going to get while at this school because you have a set deadline, way less time than you actually need and you've just got to pull it together," Alex Tasker, junior animation student and member of Team Acrylic Whiskey, said. "I think that's really the biggest charm and why this contest is so popular."

To prepare for their weekend residence on campus, students brought materials such as sleepings bags, water coolers, extra clothes and snacks. Many teams prepared by practicing their skills as animators in class and getting to know each member's strengths and weaknesses.

"I've been preparing for it kind of all year by learning the software and the techniques for making animations faster, something concise that's 30 seconds [long]," Tristan Marx, senior animation major and member of Team Hush Puggies, said.

He described the contest as a test that examined how well students had learned and practiced every lesson received in class. Competitors had to push through exhaustion and technology malfunctions, with some colleges even experiencing power outages.

Unfortunately for the local animators, the top five teams all came from outside schools. The highest ranking team from CSULB, the Hush Puggies, was comprised of Marx and senior animation students Holly Furnish, Sarah Black, Yesenia Garcia Lopez and Xareni Ramirez.

Their film, which features a head of broccoli trying to pass as an ice cream cone in a training academy of sweets, featuring a drill sergeant twinkie, was submitted with only five minutes to spare.

"I'd do it again with this exact team," Marx said, a sentiment echoed by his teammates.

Bear Eats Mackerel, a team from Sheridan College placed first overall in the contest with their movie about a musical note that doesn't fit in with the rest of the song.

"We really put our all into the film but I don't think we ever really thought we'd get first place," Daniel Park, a sophomore animation student from Sheridan College and member of Bear Eats Mackerel, said. "We are super impressed with the other films in competition and we just feel very lucky to be recognized by the judges."

All of the short animations produced at the competition can be viewed on their Youtube playlist.

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OP-ED

There will never be a right time to protest

With rising tensions between the black community and racial injustice, kneeling has become the new form of peaceful protest.

By Hunter Lee
Assistant Photo Editor

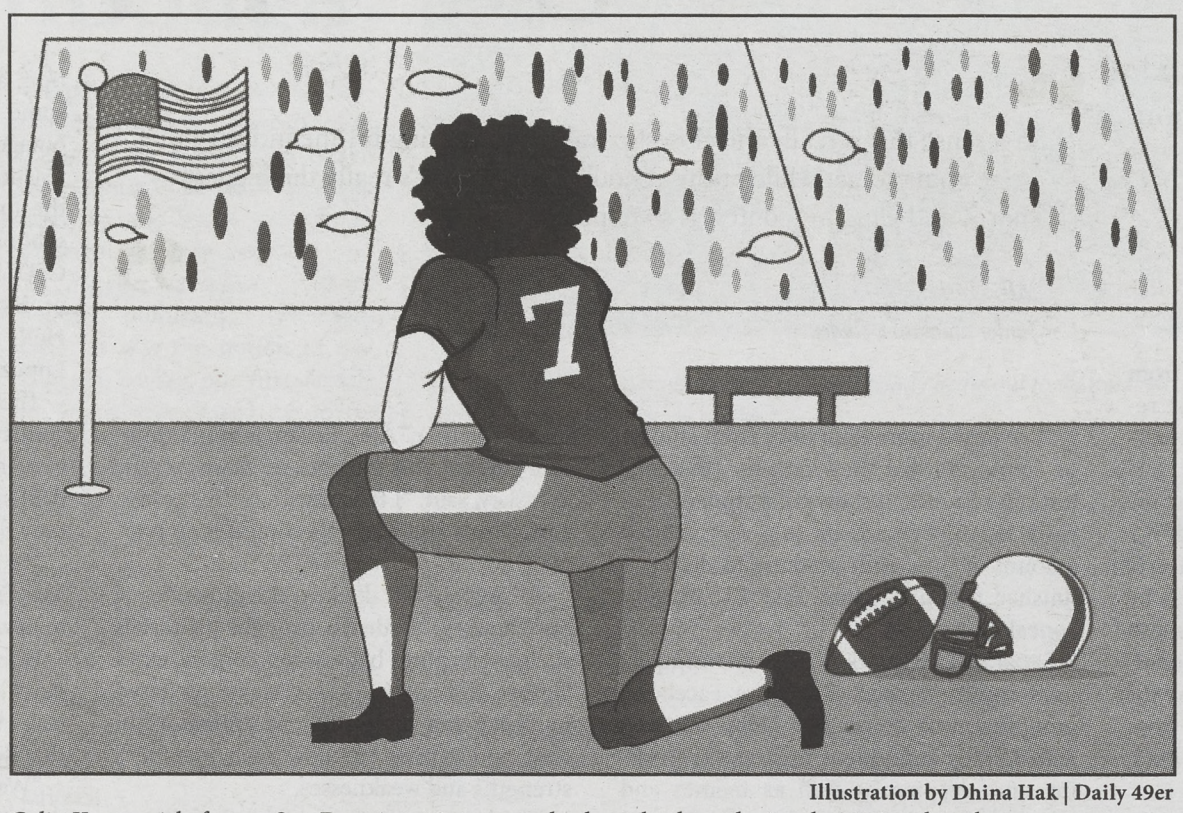

Illustration by Dhina Hak | Daily 49er

Colin Kaepernick, former San Francisco 49er quarterback, took a knee during the National Anthem to protest police violence toward African Americans.

Peaceful kneeling as a form of protest has gained more traction by sports viewers across the nation.

The #TakeAKnee movement has grown since former 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick was criticized for sitting down during the National Anthem; now, more acclaimed sports players have taken a knee in protest against both police brutality and racial injustice that has ceased to end throughout the nation.

With the rise in controversy over the #TakeAKnee movement, the conflict has become: when is the right time for black people to protest?

The answer is simple — there will never be a right time for black people to protest the injustice they have been dealt because oppressors never want to hear the afflictions of the oppressed.

In a 1961 Gallup poll taken during the Civil Rights Movement, participants were asked whether or not "'sit-ins' at lunch counters, 'freedom buses,' and other demonstrations by Negroes will hurt or help the Negro's chances of being integrated in the South."

57 percent agreed that these demonstrations were hurting their cause.

This remains true to today's demonstrations with people of color constantly being met with disdain by people who disagree with any form of protest these groups take.

It's not the act of protest that causes backlash; it's the seemingly unbelievable idea that black people would have any reason to protest when they are so privileged to live in America.

But citizenship doesn't guarantee equality.

As members of our hyper-patriotic country have argued, standing for the flag is standing for the freedom that the United States is entitled to deliver its inhabitants. It's saying, Yes, I am proud to live freely in this country and respect those who feel the same.

Yet, time and time again, we've watched black communities take to the streets in response to racial injustice, proving that this freedom to coexist is, in fact, nonexistent. Every single time, unsympathetic whites have always been looming over them. They wonder why there isn't another way for these groups to express their frustrations. Those same whites are the first to condemn black protestors for voicing their anger through silent, peaceful and respectful forms of protest such as kneeling.

> "Yet, time and time again, we've watched black communities take to the streets in response to racial injustice, proving that this freedom to coexist is, in fact, nonexistent."

In youth sports, taking a knee indicates a player has been injured. For a moment, both teams recognize human vulnerability among the chaos of running and passing and tackling.

So as players in national leagues take a knee for African Americans, they are signaling distress and suffering. They are collectively protesting the discriminatory police brutality that this country has thrust upon them.

The world of sports has long served as a platform to call out forms of social injustice, and as history would tell you, each scenario has been met with oppressors' rejection of the oppressed.

Five St. Louis Rams players marched onto the field with hands raised in the "don't shoot" pose. They were decrying the death of Michael Brown, who was killed at the hands of police brutality in 2014. In response to this exercising of free speech, the local police called for the Rams players' punishment by the National Football League.

In another instance in the same year, Lebron James, Kyrie Irving and other National Basketball Association players wore shirts with "I can't breathe" in response to the unarmed killing of Eric Garner. Garner, accused of selling untaxed cigarettes, was placed into a chokehold by police who were trying to subdue him. His cries of being unable to breathe were ignored, leading to his undeserved death.

Quick to dismiss the call to injustice, Geraldo Rivera took to Fox News' "Race in America" to voice his disapproval.

"I wondered to myself," Rivera said, "what if Lebron James instead had a shirt, 'Be a better father to your son.'"

Rivera, ignorant to the protest's meaning, decided that James should've focused on a stereotypical issue within black communities instead of using his fame to take a stance against the brutal killing of Garner. This is just another example of black people peacefully protesting social injustice only to receive criticism and disapproval.

With professional athletes getting paid millions for their talents, critics including the president have questioned how those who have profited the most by this country can feel oppressed. Some groups have assumed that the small portion of black people who have worked and earned millions are free from discrimination.

But this is not the case. Even with the fortune that James has surmounted, his house in Los Angeles was defaced with racial slurs back in June, proving that success does not shield you from discrimination.

The simple solution to this protest controversy is clear: never speak out against police brutality. Keep it in your homes, private and separate so as to not upset the lives of white supremacists, corrupt police and politicians and those complacent with them because it does not directly impact their livelihood.

Change has never been simple, and causing controversy only means that voices are being heard. There is never a right time to protest; there will always be groups who are oblivious to or supportive of social injustice and are willing to silence whoever doesn't share their views.

But there is a wrong time to stay complacent, and that time is now.

Daily 49er

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BASEBALL

Dirtbags release heavy hitting 2018 schedule

LBSU announces matchups for the upcoming season.

By Luke Ramirez
Assistant Sports Editor

Jose De Castro | Daily 49er file photo

After a 2017 season filled with success, the Long Beach State Dirtbags are adding some of the nation's top teams to their upcoming schedule featuring three out of the eight teams who played in the college world series.

The No. 8 Long Beach State Dirtbags released their 2018 season schedule on Tuesday, revealing a total of 13 games scheduled against teams listed in baseballamerica.com's top-25 ranking. The impressive strength of schedule comes on the heels of a 42-20-1 campaign last year that resulted in a NCAA Super Regional appearance.

"We are excited about our 2018 schedule," LBSU head coach Troy Buckley said in the press release. "It will give us the opportunity to play outstanding programs both at home and on the road."

Key matchups include a road series against No. 4 Texas Christian University (50-18) Feb. 24-26, a home game against No. 18 Vanderbilt (36-25) on March 6 and a road series against No. 10 Texas A&M (41-23) March 9-11.

"The non-conference schedule will be a huge test that will allow us to grow and develop our identity for this Dirtbag team," Buckley said.

LBSU also has six total games against No. 7 Cal State Fullerton (39-24), three of which will count toward their Big West Conference record during the final homestand at Blair Field May 24-26. The Titans, TCU and Texas A&M all reached the college world series in 2017.

"I think [last season] we showed we can compete with anybody in the nation and we set a new standard," senior shortstop Laine Huffman said. "A schedule like this is really good for us, but to stay on that track we're going to have to beat those teams."

Rated Power Index is determined by wins and losses against nationally ranked opponents, with extra points being considered for road wins. The Dirtbags finished 14th in the country in RPI, which helped them earn hosting rights for the NCAA Regional and Super Regional tournaments.

Last season LBSU was 4-4 against top-25 teams, and have a great opportunity to improve their status in the upcoming season. The Division I Baseball Committee and the NCAA Competition Oversight Committee recently approved a measure changing the national tournament seeding from a 1 to 8 into a 1 to 16 format, making RPI more important than ever.

"That aspect puts a lot more emphasis on those series," senior starting pitcher John Sheaks said. "We want to end up as one of those national seeds because, the returners know how important it is to host in the postseason."

The Dirtbags will also host Mississippi at Blair field March 2-4, as well as Tulane in the following home series against Tulane March 16-18. Another important series will be a roadtrip to play the Mountain West Conference's Fresno State March 29-31.

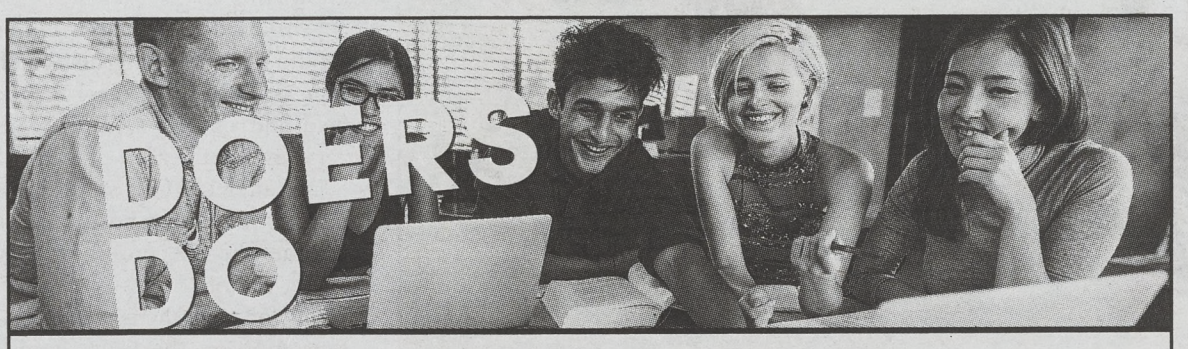
With the release of its schedule, LBSU caught the eye of many across the country and will likely enter the year highly ranked in the national scope.

"Playing schools from all of these different conferences is huge for us," Sheaks said. "It really gives us the opportunity to prove ourselves on the national level."

While the 2018 season feels much closer, LBSU has yet to hold an official practice, and will likely begin in the coming weeks. Returners such as Sheaks and Huffman not only have to get themselves prepared for the season, but also groom the crop of fresh faces added to the LBSU roster after seven key players were drafted and signed with MLB teams in July.

"The schedule will also allow the new guys to get a grip of what Division I college baseball is like at the highest level," Huffman said. "It's the top competition in the nation, and that's what we all play for."

If the Dirtbags can perform like they did in 2017 against the top quality teams on the slate this year, another exciting post season will be a strong chance.



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Marck Parra | Daily 49er

Senior forward Tori Bolden is ready to take LBSU to new heights in her final season.

PROFILE

The risk that paid off for Tori Bolden

With a frustrating freshmen season at Cal, she transferred to LBSU to save her athletic career.

By Marck Parra
Staff Writer

When senior forward Tori Bolden decided to transfer from Cal Berkeley to Long Beach State during her sophomore year, she knew she was taking a risk — a risk her athletic career desperately needed.

At Cal, Bolden only managed a total of 207 minutes during her lone season with the women's soccer team, but was hungry for more.

She saw the perfect opportunity to grow as a person both on and off the field with LBSU.

"Berkeley just wasn't a good fit for me," Bolden said, "And after talking with [head coach] Mauricio [Ingrassia], I just felt like this was a better place for me to grow as a player — and it was closer to home."

Now, as an integral part of Ingrassia's team, Bolden is ready to cement herself as one of the true leaders of the squad and take the 49ers to impressive new heights. But before she ever graced LBSU with her talents, Bolden was torn at an early age between playing soccer and running track and field.

Joseph Kling | Daily 49er

Senior Tori Bolden looks to make a pass against CSUN in Aug. 18 match at George Allen Field.

"I come from a track background, but I started playing pee-wee soccer around the age of four," Bolden said."I just ended up liking it more than track."

Bolden grew up in Rancho Cucamonga with a household full of athletes. Her mother Zelda was a track and field star at Mt. San Antonio College, where she broke several community college records that stand today.

> "Berkeley just wasn't a good fit for me... And after talking with [head coach] Mauricio Ingrassia I just felt like this was a better place for me to grow."
>
> *-Tori Bolden, Senior forward*

Her brother Victor is a standout football player who first made a name for himself at the wide receiver position at Oregon State. After a successful tenure at the school, Victor was picked up by the San Francisco 49ers of the NFL as an undrafted free agent.

Bolden said regardless of many individual athletic personalities living under one roof, athletic tension never arose at the household.

"Honestly people ask me that all the time [if there was a lot of competition at home]," Bolden laughs. "We all got along so well."

During her teenage years at Los Osos High School, Bolden started to stand out on the soccer pitch and attracted the attention of the U.S. women's soccer under-18 team.

With all of this valuable experience at her disposal, LBSU is reaping the benefits of her talents — and head coach Ingrassia knows this.

"Tori is doing what a senior should be doing," Ingrassia said. "She is leading the team on the field and off the field, and I'm very proud of her."

Life after LBSU is still a mystery for Bolden, who is unsure whether she will continue to play soccer or not.

But for now, she is solely concentrating on the team, graduating and pursuing a career in sports broadcasting.

"I actually want to do something like sports broadcasting after graduating," Bolden said. "I'm not sure if I want to keep continuing playing soccer after here, but we'll see."

Whether she will hang up her cleats up at the end of the season or not, Ingrassia is positive she'll make the most out of this season for the betterment of the team.

"She's got her spark [this season], so as long as she manages it and we keep her fresh, she can be a threat," Ingrassia said.